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Canada Border Services Agency
Agence des services frontaliers du Canada

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BREXIT IMPLICATIONS FOR CANADA-UNITED KINGDOM TRADE

ISSUE

The United Kingdom (UK) is currently scheduled to withdraw its membership from the European Union (EU) on January 31, 2020 (known as "Brexit"). Should Brexit lead to changes in the *Customs Tariff Act*, the CBSA is working with the Privy Council Office (PCO), the Treasury Board Secretariat (TBS), Global Affairs Canada (GAC), and Finance Canada (Finance) to ensure it is ready to implement such changes on short notice and inform the trade community.

CONSIDERATIONS

The implementation of Brexit, originally scheduled for March 29, 2019, has been delayed to January 31, 2020. Currently, there is uncertainty as to whether the UK will leave the EU with or without a withdrawal agreement that provides for a transition period during which the UK would still be bound by EU rules, including treaties such as the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA).

Given the uncertainty surrounding Brexit, and inquiries from the trading community, the CBSA has developed holding lines, in consultation with GAC, Finance, the PCO, and the TBS. This will ensure consistent and accurate responses from the Agency on this issue and to help mitigate

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any confusion among the trade community surrounding Brexit by making it clear that the CBSA will ensure that any changes to the *Customs Tariff Act* are communicated to the public.

ADVICE TO MINISTER

The CBSA is working closely with the PCO, the TBS, GAC, and Finance to ensure a coordinated approach to respond to any Brexit scenario.

We will continue to keep your office informed of any changes as they develop.

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